BORN IDENTITY

20 COLLEGIATE STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM Patterned AFTER "BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL."

The National Hellenic Society (NHS), a foundation established to promote and preserve Hellenic heritage and culture through programs that enrich the community at large, will provide full-funded educational, first-time visits to Greece for students via its Heritage Greece program, June 5-24, 2011, announced NHS Executive Director Timothy Vachris.

This year, 20 collegiate students from across the United States will participate in the program, which is patterned after "Birthright Israel." They will experience Greece for the first time in their lives as part of an immersion program designed to fortify the students’ respective knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Greek language, culture, and history.

"Our hope for these young Greek Americans is that they will connect with their Greek identity, discover the importance of Greek heritage, and share that experience with each other and with their student peers group in Greece," said Theophrastus Economides, chair, NHS Program Committee.

NHS sponsors Heritage Greece in collaboration with DEREE – The American College of Greece, Europe’s largest and oldest American college. Because of its partnership with the university, which is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, participants will receive three academic credits that are readily transferable to the student’s home institution.

"DEREE – The American College of Greece is proud to collaborate with the National Hellenic Society to create a unique cultural and educational program connecting Greek-American college students to their Hellenic heritage," said Dr. Kathleen Cross, dean of Students Abroad at the university. "We look forward to welcoming the 20 selected Greek American students to our campus and Greece this month."

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